

City of Mansfield
MINUTES OF *REGULAR* PUBLIC MEETING
July 11, 2016

The Board of Aldermen met in regular session on **Monday, July 11th** in Mansfield City Hall located at 705 Polk Street. Mayor Pro Tempore Mitchell Lewis called the meeting to order at **4:30 p.m.**, after which an Invocation was offered by **Alderman Kervin D. Campbell**. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by **Alderwoman Mary L. Green**. Following the pledge, the roll call was suspended. However, the following officials were recorded as **Present**: Hon. Mitchell L. Lewis, **Mayor Pro Tem**, Mary L. Green –District **A**, Mitchell L. Lewis –District **C** and Kervin D. Campbell –District **E**. **Absent**: Brenda H. Hall –District **B** and Joseph Hall, Jr. –District **D**. **Absent due to suspension**: Roy R. Jones –District **B**. **Other City Personnel Present**: Gwendolyn Jones (Deputy Clerk), Brian Phillips (Court Clerk), Melony McCarty (Accountant), Gary Hobby (Police Chief), Wayne Nichols (Fire Chief), and James “Jim” Ruffin (Public Works Director). **Others Present**: None. **Press Present**: None.

It was MOTIONED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** and SECONDED by **MARY L. GREEN** to approve the minutes of the **June 27, 2016 *regular*** City Council meeting and to dispense with the reading. Motion Passed Unanimously.

It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve payment of current outstanding bills for this period. Motion Passed Unanimously.

The City Clerk next opened the floor to hear public comments from those in attendance to any item outlined on the meeting agenda. When no comments were offered from the floor, the **Public Comments Period** was then closed.

Old Business: None.

New Business:

Item A: Before relinquishing the floor to Mr. **Deabraid Lewis** to hear his presentation/proposal, the City Clerk requested that the published agenda be amended to receive quarterly reports from the City’s department heads. When no objection was voiced from either the attendants or the Board of Aldermen, it was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to approve amendment of the agenda to receive second quarter reports from the City’s department heads. Motion Passed Unanimously. First to report was city accountant, **Melony M. McCarty**. Mrs. **McCarty** began by informing the Council that the City’s annual audit of financial statements had been completed and same was forwarded to the state Legislative Auditors’ office by the deadline submission date of June 30, 2016. Further, she commented that the auditor’s exit interview had been conducted where we were informed that this year’s report would be submitted with no exceptions/findings cited. The City Clerk later commented that this was probably the first time in the history of audits being performed where no findings were included in the annual financial audit report. Mrs. **McCarty** did mention, however, that the auditors cautioned management to closely monitor both general and capital expenditures during the remainder of this fiscal year. The auditors are scheduled to attend the July 25th regular

meeting of the Board of Aldermen to summarize their findings and provide any recommendations to the Mayor and City Council. Next to report was police chief, **Gary D. Hobbs** of the Mansfield Police Department. He distributed his written quarterly report to the City Council and began by citing a notable increase in the number of citations issued to-date (623) as compared to this same time last year (365). When asked by alderwoman Mary Green what he would attribute to the marked increase in the number of citations issued to-date, Chief **Hobbs** stated that the number of complaints lodged in residential subdivisions had increased. Complaints had significantly increased with regard to motorists violating posted speed limits. As a result, Mayor McCoy had requested more frequent patrol in these subdivisions. His report also summarized next-level certifications attained by two of the departments' lead investigators, future planned community projects, and finally exterior improvements to the police/fire department building. The next report presented came from fire chief, **A. Wayne Nichols**. In similar format as that of the police chief, Chief **Nichols's** report summarized the number to-date of Fire Department responses (68). Of that number, 8 responses were to fire alarms activated, 3 were to structure fires, 4 to grass/vegetation fires, 9 to electrical fires, 3 responses to downed power lines and a total of 15 were EMS calls. Other responses not mentioned here but contained in Chief **Nichols'** report were also counted to make up that number (68). Chief **Nichols** also informed the Council of enrichment classes his department hosted and of upcoming continuing education classes scheduled. Two firefighters had achieved two additional certifications in firefighter training. Chief **Nichols** stated that his department is presently in negotiations to partner with *DeSoto Parish Fire District No. 8* to draft and enter into a Mutual Aide Agreement. In the event of fire outbreaks, both our fire department personnel and Fire District 8 firefighters would be called out to assist in the event. Finally, the E-911 administrator, Mr. **Bruce Vanderhoven**, is contemplating a donation of approximately a half dozen *Tuff Book* laptops to be stored in the department's fire trucks. These laptops would afford the department the ability to link home addresses to cell phone numbers automatically. The final department head to report was public works director, **Jim W. Ruffin**. Mr. Ruffin focused most of his report on what funds from a \$40,000 Community Water Enrichment Fund grant awarded to the City for the 2014-2015 funding cycle were used for. This is a grant with a maximum award amount of \$50,000 that the City applies for annually and has historically been awarded \$25,000 to \$40,000 each time recipients are announced by the Office of Community Development. Primarily, the grant funds enabled the City to make needed improvements at both our Stanley and South Mansfield Water Booster Stations. These improvements greatly enhanced our system's water quality and distribution. Mr. **Ruffin** closed by informing the Council that two of the City's water plant operators had attained next-level certifications in water treatment, production and distribution.

Item B: At this time, a presentation was delivered from Mr. **Deabraid "Puncho" Lewis**. Mr. Lewis distributed a copy of a written proposal to each Council member of his plans for the gymnasium at the DeSoto Alumni Multi-Cultural Community Center located at 1216 Old Jefferson Highway. Mr. Lewis proposed to open the gym daily, Monday through Friday, from

4:00 – 8:00 p.m. and schedule activities for both children and adults. However, with no start-up capital, his intent was to solicit corporate funds from the City of Mansfield and the DeSoto Parish Police Jury to help subsidize administrative expenses (salaries, utilities, etc.). Both entities would divide these costs equally for a period of six (6) months, until the community center could become self-sustaining. After hearing Mr. Lewis' proposal, alderwoman Green advised Mr. Lewis to also look into securing any available grants for such a venture. It was MOTIONED by **MARY L. GREEN** and SECONDED by **KERVIN D. CAMPBELL** to take Mr. Lewi's proposal under advisement. Motion Passed Unanimously.

With no further business to discuss, this meeting was declared adjourned at **5:18 p.m.** by MOTION from **MARY L. GREEN** and was SECONDED by **MITCHELL L. LEWIS** Motion Passed Unanimously.

Mitchell L. Lewis, *Mayor Pro Tempore*
Marvin R. Jackson, *Clerk*